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Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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* A/69/150.
** The information contained in the addendum was received after the deadline for the submission of the main report.

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I. Introduction

Member States were invited to provide executive summaries of their contributions for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General, while their submissions in extenso are posted on the website, http://www.unog.ch/oewg-ndn.

II. Replies received from Governments

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[24 July 2014]

On this issue, Argentina reaffirms the urgent need to advance towards the priority goal of nuclear disarmament and achieve the total and universal elimination of nuclear weapons. It has therefore joined the international community's efforts to move towards the negotiation of a legally binding universal instrument banning nuclear weapons.

Argentina attaches the highest priority to nuclear disarmament and considers that the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination.

In Argentina's view, weapons of mass destruction are a major threat to global stability; accordingly, Argentina is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which it considers to be the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

Four decades of great achievements in the field of non-proliferation have not been matched by commensurate progress in nuclear disarmament. Argentina is particularly concerned about the lack of progress on nuclear disarmament 43 years after the entry into force of the Treaty.

In this context, Argentina reiterates its support for any action that promotes the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, consistent with the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability of nuclear disarmament measures. Argentina supports efforts to articulate a common Latin American and Caribbean position, both in the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, to promote a new treaty banning all nuclear weapons. These efforts should continue. Argentina has also participated in the process begun in March 2013 in Oslo to highlight the devastating humanitarian impact of all nuclear weapons, regardless of who possesses them.

Germany

[Original: English]
[18 July 2014]

Introduction

Concerning nuclear disarmament and the role of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group and pursuant to resolution 68/46, Germany shares the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. Given States' opposing ideas about achieving that goal, we suggest focusing on existing commonalities by identifying concrete and practical "building blocks". Progress is possible through the use of confidence-building measures, particularly by nuclear weapon States. In addition, Germany calls for full commitment to non-proliferation.

Building Blocks Approach

Referring to the working paper of 27 June 2013, entitled "Building blocks for a world without nuclear weapons" (A/AC.281/WP.4), Germany asserts parallel and simultaneous nuclear disarmament steps on a multilateral, plurilateral, bilateral or unilateral basis.

Past bilateral and unilateral "building blocks" have significantly reduced the global nuclear-weapon stockpile over the past 35 years. Essential multilateral "building blocks" already exist; for example, International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the multilateral "disarmament machinery".

Germany suggests the following elements for further "building blocks":

- Negotiation of a verifiable and non-discriminatory fissile material cut-off treaty dealing with all relevant questions in this context
- Entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Germany calls upon all States that have not yet done so to ratify the Treaty and allow its entry into force
- Continued commitment by all States possessing nuclear weapons to fully respect their binding commitments to Negative Security Assurances
- Returning to substantive work in the Conference on Disarmament, notably dealing with nuclear disarmament and substantive discussion of Negative Security Assurances
- Universalization of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
- Continuing work on developing verification schemes.

In addition, Germany proposes the following short-term "building blocks":

- Further reduction of the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines
- Increasing transparency of nuclear arsenals and fissile material in stockpiles
- Reducing the number of deployed strategic nuclear weapons and the number of non-strategic and non-deployed nuclear weapons

- Promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education
- Strengthening nuclear-weapon-free zones
- Dismantling or converting for peaceful uses production facilities of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

Role of the Open-ended Working Group

Germany voted in favour of resolution 68/46 to take forward nuclear disarmament. However, while welcoming the opportunity for civil society and non-Conference on Disarmament Member States to participate in deliberations, Germany questions the added value of an extended mandate of the Working Group as long as nuclear-weapon States are not participating in the debates.

Ghana

[Original: English]
[31 July 2013]

A nuclear-weapon-free world remains the ultimate goal of the Government and the people of Ghana. It is in this context that Ghana has remained an active State party to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty). Unfortunately, it appears that the single multilateral forum, the Conference on Disarmament, has been stalled for a long time. In the view of Ghana, judging by its history, the Conference on Disarmament has the potential to negotiate a desired treaty on nuclear disarmament.

Achieving such a feat in the Conference on Disarmament may require a review of its rules of procedure. First of all, more States should be permitted to join the membership. In addition, the use of a veto by any of its members in decision-making should be limited. Unarguably, the use of a veto by members continues to impede the successful adoption of an agenda and conclusion of a treaty for over a decade and half. The use of a veto may, nevertheless, be applied only to the final conclusion of a treaty by a State party, where necessary. This would permit an agenda to be determined and negotiations to progress assuredly.

Ghana, however, recognizes the ongoing steps by the Group of Nuclear Weapon States to reduce stockpiles towards an eventual elimination in a strategic balance. The obligation placed on the nuclear-weapon States by article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty must be implemented. In that regard, Ghana notes that the largest stockpile countries, the United States of America and the Russian Federation, have over the years, reduced their stockpiles through bilateral arrangements, and continue to do so.

Unfortunately, all these efforts have remained unverified and for that matter lacks transparency. Ghana thus advocates the establishment of a mechanism for the verification and monitoring of these reduction programmes, particularly by the International Atomic Energy Agency. At the 2015 Review Conference, Ghana would wish to see this concern addressed to assure all other State parties of progress towards a world without nuclear weapons.

Ensuring the balanced implementation of the three pillars of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty through disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses,

is very paramount to Ghana. Two of the pillars, namely, peaceful uses and non-proliferation, have largely been successful. This notwithstanding, support for developing countries towards the peaceful uses of nuclear technology needs to be enhanced. The global community would need to seek a balance between the disarmament and non-proliferation nexus with a goal to ensure verifiable rogress towards a nuclear-weapon-free world; the key element in this mechanism has always been trust, and would remain as such for the foreseeable future.

It is important to note that, while Ghana supports the negotiation of a treaty banning nuclear weapons in the shortest possible time, and has fully participated in the conference on the humanitarian consequences on nuclear weapons since its inception, any such initiative without the involvement of all nuclear-weapon-possessing States may not achieve the desired results.

To conclude, Ghana as a member of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, shares the Group position on this matter.

India

[Original: English]
[27 August 2014]

India is convinced that the goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. There is need for a meaningful dialogue among all States possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines.

India's working paper CD/1816, enumerated specific steps, including reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment of all nuclear-weapon States to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons; reduction of the salience of nuclear weapons in the security doctrines; measures by nuclear-weapon States to reduce nuclear danger; negotiation of a global agreement among nuclear-weapon States on "no-first-use" of nuclear weapons; negotiation of a universal and legally binding agreement on non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States; negotiation of a convention on the complete prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; and negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified time frame.

While India supported resolution 68/46, in recognition of the importance of sustaining efforts on multilateral nuclear disarmament, there are continuing concerns on parallel initiatives that could impact negatively on the established disarmament machinery and on the coherence of international efforts on nuclear disarmament. India considers the Conference on Disarmament the appropriate forum for the commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament through the establishment of a subsidiary body with a mandate agreed by consensus as part of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work.

Ireland

[Original: English]
[27 August 2014]

Ireland favours and supports all approaches that advance multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations on the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. All interim measures, including those promoting transparency and confidence-building, are welcome but are no substitute for the required legal action at the multilateral level.

The Conference on Disarmament in Geneva again failed to adopt a programme of work in 2013. While recalling the right of all States to participate in disarmament negotiations, discussion should focus on how the work of the Conference might be reinvigorated. Efforts to organize collective deliberations in temporary formations outside the Conference should also be welcomed. Ireland actively participated in the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral disarmament negotiations, and considers its work a most useful and worthwhile contribution. Member States participated in constructive dialogue in a forum that allowed for a free exchange of views. Ireland supports the consensus report of the Open-ended Working Group, which offers a starting point for taking forward multilateral discussions on nuclear disarmament.

Ireland, together with its partners in the New Agenda Coalition, argued at the Open-ended Working Group that future nuclear disarmament discussions need to be guided by a legally binding and multilateral commitment to nuclear disarmament and supported by terms of reference and benchmarks that are well defined. The New Agenda Coalition subsequently elaborated on this in detail in a working paper on article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was presented to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.18).

All States have a legitimate interest in multilateral nuclear disarmament. The work of the Open-ended Working Group underlined the value of an inclusive and participatory approach. The involvement of the nuclear States in the dialogue on nuclear disarmament is of critical importance, but theirs is not the only voice. Ireland encourages each State to engage with all those who can play a role in taking the discussions forward. Full engagement with civil society, academia and the scientific community is vital in advancing the dialogue. The Open-ended Working Group provided an excellent platform for such engagement, and the initiative should be revisited at the appropriate juncture.

Ireland particularly welcomes the re-emergence of the focus on the humanitarian consequences and known risks of nuclear weapons that underpin collective efforts towards nuclear disarmament, and looks forward to the third international conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, which will be hosted by Austria on 8 and 9 December 2014 in Vienna. A working paper on the theme "The humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons: known risks and consequences" was submitted to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference by Ireland on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.19).

Jordan

[Original: Arabic]
[29 May 2014]

Efforts to promote global nuclear security have become crucial to achieving international security and stability for several reasons. First, nuclear proliferation remains one of the most serious challenges facing the world and international organizations. In fact, the relevant international agencies, at the forefront of which is the International Atomic Energy Agency, warn that significant proliferation of weapons of mass destruction could lead to global nuclear insecurity unless effective action is taken to reduce the risk of nuclear proliferation. Second, the increasing interest shown recently by many States to possess nuclear weapons is a serious challenge, because the greater the number of States that possess nuclear weapons, the greater the decline in global security and stability. This is especially true in view of the continuing political tensions and conflicts around the world and the possibility that such decisions are being made in the absence of sound policies. The world today finds itself at a watershed and facing a true test. International efforts and initiatives to prevent nuclear proliferation and terrorism must succeed; otherwise, the race to acquire nuclear weapons will accelerate, and that would threaten international security and stability.

The Jordanian position

Jordan was among the first States in the region to sign the relevant conventions, stemming from its conviction that real peace and stability in the Middle East can be achieved only through concerted regional and international efforts to achieve nuclear security and prohibit the use of nuclear weapons. To that end, Jordan endorses and supports all regional and international efforts leading to the achievement of this goal and, eventually, the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction. It has acceded to the following conventions and treaties:

(a) Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

(b) The Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism

(c) Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

(d) Proliferation Security Initiative

(e) Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone initiative

(f) International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism

(g) Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its amendments

(h) Convention on Nuclear Safety

(i) Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency

(j) Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident

(k) Cooperative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology

(l) Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Atomic Energy Agency

(m) Security Council resolutions concerning the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction

Jordan has long sought to strengthen global nuclear security. These efforts include the initiative that His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin Al Hussein launched in March 2012 at the Nuclear Security Summit held in Seoul, Korea. The aim of this initiative is to establish an anti-nuclear trafficking team composed of officials and experts from all relevant agencies, in order to combat the dangers posed by the smuggling of nuclear materials.

Jordan stresses that the credibility of the Non-Proliferation Treaty depends on balanced efforts to implement the Treaty's three pillars of disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use, in addition to achieving the universality of the Treaty.

In order to prevent the smuggling of any nuclear material through Jordanian territory, the Jordanian armed forces have administered specialized training programmes on the smuggling of such material in order to enhance the effectiveness of border guard forces and various security agencies.

Recommendations

1. The importance of this issue must be recognized at the highest levels, in order for States to develop a common response and enhance cooperation in strengthening nuclear security.

2. A common understanding or universal agreement must be reached in respect of the threats that may arise as a result of nuclear terrorism and how to respond to those threats.

3. It is necessary to enhance efforts to achieve global nuclear security, with a view to reducing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the potential threat of nuclear terrorism. This can be achieved by preventing terrorists, criminals and non-State actors from acquiring nuclear materials.

4. Participating States should agree on the gravity of the threat posed by nuclear terrorism, and cooperate fully in order to secure vulnerable nuclear materials around the world.

5. In line with their international obligations, States must commit to maintaining effective security systems to safeguard nuclear materials and facilities under their control.

6. The members of the international community should act in concert to strengthen nuclear security, either by requesting or providing assistance when necessary.

7. The nuclear arms race should be curbed, as should the attendant threat to international security and stability.

8. In order to build confidence, States must demonstrate full respect for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and refrain from the threat or use of nuclear force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, and from interference in the internal affairs of States. Disputes must be resolved peacefully.

9. India, Israel and Pakistan, the three States that have not yet acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, must be called on to accede immediately and unconditionally to the Treaty.

Slovenia

[Original: English]
[7 July 2014]

Slovenia co-sponsored the General Assembly resolution 68/46, titled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations", adopted on 5 December 2013. Hereby, Slovenia provides its view on how to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.

First of all, Slovenia continues to share a vision of a world free of nuclear weapons. Slovenia is convinced that this should not be a distant ideal, but rather an achievable goal. Slovenia believes that the international community should and could do more for nuclear disarmament. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons should continue to serve as a central point of all international activities in the context of nuclear disarmament. Nuclear disarmament negotiations should be gradual, but at the same time definite and irreversible.

One of the reasons for the present situation in the field of nuclear disarmament is the lack of functional multilateral disarmament machinery, which needs to be reviewed. Slovenia welcomes all initiatives to this end, including the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva; both are unable to take substantial decisions. The Conference on Disarmament, which has been blocked for more than 15 years, should start negotiations on the fissile material cut-off treaty, which should be the first new international legal instrument to be negotiated in the field of nuclear disarmament that will complement the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Slovenia would like to appeal once again to the members of the Conference on Disarmament to start the process of expansion of its membership. The Conference should be open to all States that are concerned about international peace and security and interested in participating in disarmament negotiations.

That is why Slovenia welcomed the establishment, by the General Assembly by its resolution 67/56, of the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world free of nuclear weapons.

The work of the Open-ended Working Group that took place in the second quarter of 2013 in Geneva was successful. The Working Group looked beyond approaches on how to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations and provided a forum to address nuclear disarmament in an open, transparent and

inclusive manner. It also adopted consensual report that provides an input to take this work further towards nuclear disarmament.

In this context Slovenia favours continuation of the work of the Open-ended Working Group.